

21 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

This memorandum recommends action by the Director.

In view of the unusual interest in the recent speeches of the Soviet leaders, it is recommended that a resume of the significant parts be prepared for you and that conclusions be drawn, particularly as to whether or nor this Council marks the beginning of a "new Russia."

Provided you are willing, it would seem desirable that within the next ten days you might give an off-the-record talk to the bureau chiefs of the principal wire and news media in Washington, Bill Lawrence of the TIMES to arrange the affair at the Carlton as he did previously and under the same conditions. In addition to giving your evaluation of the Russian plans, you could cover the sensitive areas throughout the world, and do some counter-propaganda. You could also, of course, touch on our current interest with the Congress as to a watchdog committee, and also regarding funds for the Langley building and pay raises for top CIA officials to bring up their salaries to those of similar leaders in other departments of the government.

In such a talk you might want to stress the effort the Soviets are obviously making, according to the press, for the good will of the Scandinavian countries; the new economic penetration in South and Central America; the unstable situation in Southeast Asia; and the near-explosive situation in the Middle East and the confused French African situation; with the Soviet making a direct play for Communist support (taking over governments by subversion) in Italy and France.

It seems a most propitious time to get so important a group together so that you can give them guidance in the best interests of our country.

If you are agreeable and will set a date, I will arrange with Bill Lawrence, or with Ernest Lindley if you wish, to handle the affair as here-to fore.

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